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CIA Director: Study of Soviet Strength, Buildup Is a Must

ANAHEIM — CIA director Stan-
sfield Turner says that if there is
some sort of national consensus on
influence of events in foreign
countries, the agency has that
capability and should keep it.

But the top priority of the U.S. in-
telligence community has been and
must continue to be the strategy and
buildup in Soviet military strength.

Turner, appointed director of the
CIA in 1977 by President Carter,
spoke to some 200 persons at the
Disneyland Hotel yesterday in an
appearance sponsored by the Orange

County Forum of Town Hall of
California.

His theme was the new direction
of the CIA and the intelligence com-
munity, expansion into information
gathering on foreign politics and
economy as well as opening up some
of the agency's activities the public.

But this opening up process, caus-
ed in part by abuses alleged in con-
nection with the war in Vietnam and
Watergate, can and has been carried
too far, he said.

Disclosures by former agents of
information collecting methods

heretofore kept secret have been
"seriously damaging to our
country" by reducing the confidence
of cooperative agencies overseas
that the United States has adequate
controls to protect them.

"Their question is can they afford
working with us?" the former U.S.
Navy admiral said. He questioned
how, two of the former agents,
Philip Agee and John Stockwell,
could get support for their activities
(Stockwell's youth festival in Miami
and Agee's newsletter) criticizing
the agency.